



## Highland Community Planning Partnership Board – 19 September 2025

### Health Inequalities

**Report By: Jennifer Davies, Director of Public Health**

#### Summary:

This report provides an update on the work of the CPP Health Inequalities Short Life Working Group (SLWG) to develop a dashboard with a suite of indicators to support the CPP to monitor health inequalities. The report asks the Board to contribute to finalising the dashboard and consider how it will be used to drive the work of the CPP to tackle health inequalities and provide assurance that partnership action is shifting the dial on key indicators.

The Board is asked to:

- Note the progress to develop a data dashboard to monitor health inequalities.
- Commit to providing contributions to further refine and finalise the dashboard.
- Consider how the dashboard will be used to drive the Board and its delivery groups to consider health inequalities, apply an equity lens to its work and provide assurance that partnership action will shift the dial on the suite of indicators.

#### 1. Background

Health is shaped by experiences throughout life, in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. Health inequalities are unfair differences in health experienced by different groups of people. Scotland's new Population Health Framework aims to improve life expectancy and reduce the gap in life expectancy between those living in the most deprived areas compared to the average. Tackling health inequality requires actions on the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, including reducing poverty, supporting fair work, building strong communities and a strong education sector. This requires the range of public services locally to come together with other key stakeholders to plan and implement joined-up approaches and services. Community Planning Partnerships are well placed to deliver a co-ordinated and purposeful response to reduce health inequalities.

The Institute for Health Equity highlight that reducing health inequity requires action on eight key objectives. These are referred to as the Marmot Principles. They are to:

- give every child the best start in life
- enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- create fair employment and good work for all
- ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
- strengthen the role and impact of ill health prevention
- tackle racism, discrimination and their outcomes
- pursue environmental sustainability and health equity together

#### 2. Introduction

To understand and tackle health inequalities in Highland it is important to combine data-driven analysis with evidenced based action and cross sector collaboration. By understanding what the data is telling us

and linking this with what we know will work, the CPP will be well placed to deliver a focussed programme of work to tackle health inequalities in Highland.

This report provides an update on the work of the CPP Health Inequalities SLWG to develop a dashboard of indicators that will allow the CPP to better understand health inequalities in Highland, monitor them and consider and agree collaborative action to tackle health inequalities.

### **3. Dashboard development**

A short life working group has been meeting to develop a dashboard with a suite of indicators to support the CPP to monitor health inequalities. An initial list of indicators was presented to the June meeting, and these were agreed as the basis for future reporting to the Board. The dashboard has been further developed, and an updated report can be found in Appendix 1.

To date there has been engagement from a relatively small number of people to develop the suite of indicators. Contributions from partners is required to refine and finalise the report, including feedback from 'topic experts' within partner organisations.

### **4. Mapping current partnership activity against the Marmot Principles**

An exercise was undertaken to map current partnership activity against the eight Marmot Principles. This was useful in providing some insight into evidenced based partnership action, but further work is required to map delivery mechanisms and outcome measures, identify gaps, and assess impact.

### **5. Next steps**

To finalise the dashboard, it will be important to socialise the suite of indicators within partner organisations and provide feedback on the following:

- How easy the report is to follow and understand?
- Are there any topics missing from the report which you think should be included?
- Is there anything in the report that you feel does not add useful information?
- Data are not available by the same characteristics for each indicator and that there are gaps in the information available. Can we improve how this is handled in the report, for example, including Scotland data if Highland data are not available?
- Do you have any other suggestions for improvements, for example, alternative indicators or data sources?
- Do you think this report will be used to encourage discussion and generate actions to reduce health inequalities in Highland?
- Do you have any further feedback or comments?

Feedback from experts who are able to comment on the narrative and appropriateness of specific indicators is also important and partners are asked to identify staff to engage in the process to review specific indicators to help finalise the report.

It will be important to understand how the dashboard will be used to drive partnership activity to tackle health inequalities. It is proposed that further work is undertaken to map the final suite of indicators with the CPP delivery group outcome measures

#### **Recommendation**

The Board is asked to:

- Note the progress to develop a data dashboard to monitor health inequalities.
- Commit to providing contributions to further refine and finalise the dashboard.
- Consider how the dashboard will be used to drive the Board and its delivery groups to consider health inequalities, apply an equity lens to its work and provide assurance that partnership action will shift the dial on the suite of indicators.

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 - Report on Health Inequalities – Data Dashboard

